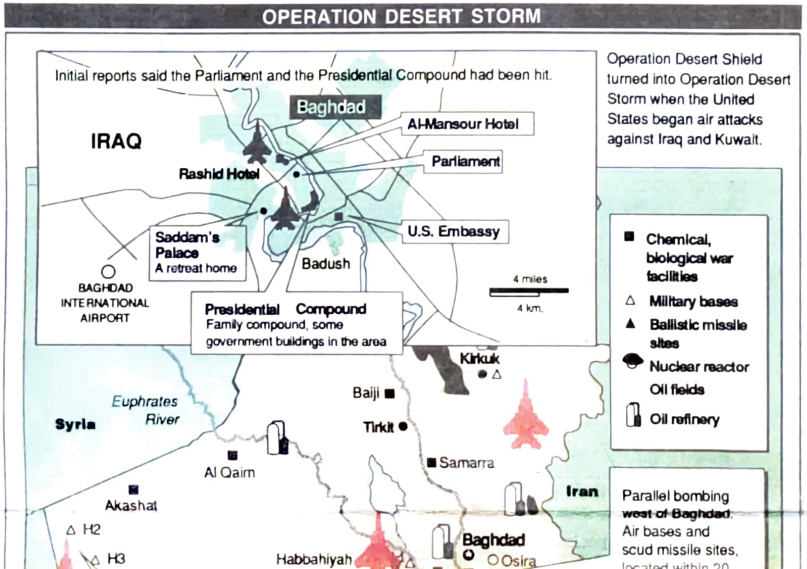
INSIDE: Four pages of coverage, beginning on A-2

THURSDAY January 17, 1991 *Serving the Mississippi Gulf Coast for 106 Years* Vol. 107, No. 109 35¢

THE SUN HERALD

'THE LIBERATION OF KUWAIT HAS BEGUN'

U.S. storms in



Iraq bombed in predawn strikes

FROM WIRE REPORTS

■ CENTRAL SAUDI ARABIA — The United States and its allies hurled a mighty air armada against Iraq early Thursday to crush that Arab nation's military power and drive it from conquered Kuwait.

"The liberation of Kuwait has begun," President Bush declared in Washington.

Wave after wave of warplanes, in hundreds of sorties on a starlit night, streaked north from Saudi Arabian bases to punish Iraq for its five-month defiance of the rest of the world.

In Baghdad, reporters said bomb explosions shook the ground of the Iraqi capital. An oil refinery 10 miles away was in flames, and flashes of light brightened the night sky, apparent anti-aircraft fire, they said.

"Operation Desert Shield" became "Operation Desert Storm" when the United States began air attacks against Iraq and Kuwait, included U.S. Air Force planes, British Tornado fighter-bombers, 150 Saudi Arabian F-15s and Tornados, and aircraft of Kuwait's exiled military, allied officials said.

First reports indicated Iraqi resistance was limited, U.S. defense officials said. Early word on U.S. casualties was "very, very encouraging," said Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. Bush, on U.S. national television, said no ground assault was launched immediately against the dug-in Iraqi army in Kuwait.

In his first message after the attack, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein called President Bush a "hypocritical criminal" and vowed to crush "the satanic intentions of the White House."

"The great showdown has begun," Saddam said in a radio message, mon-

In first hours, Coast grimly stays on watch

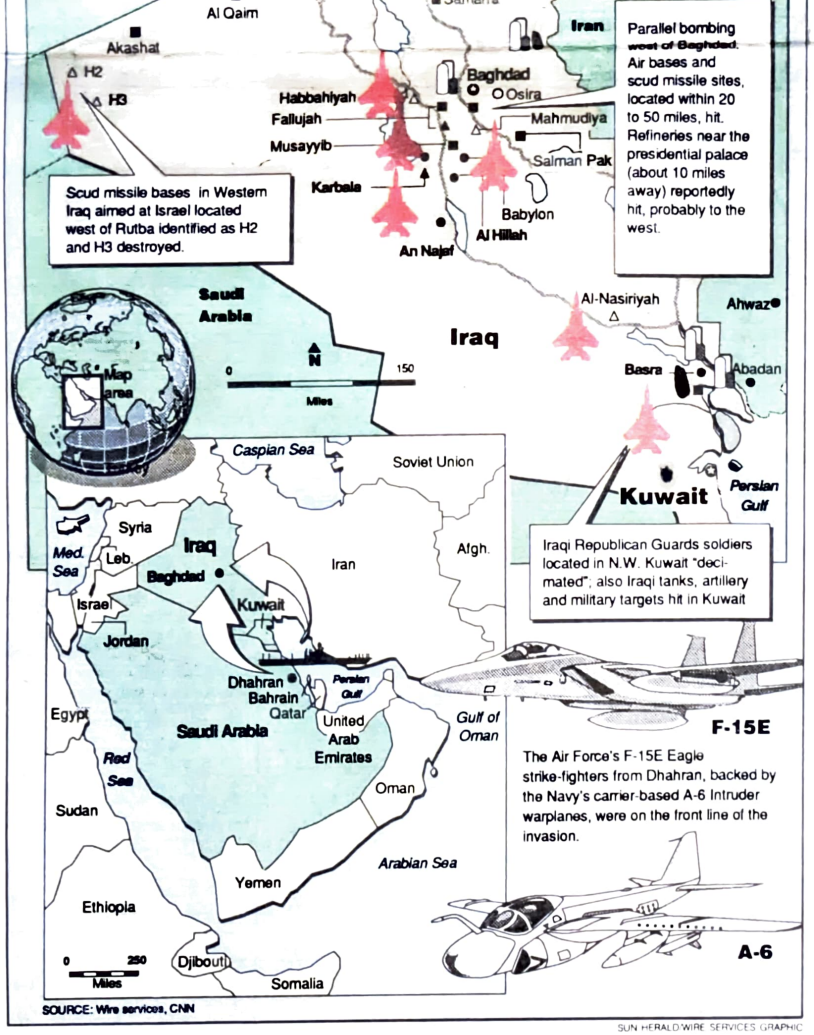
A STAFF REPORT

■ Coastians greeted the onset of war Wednesday with surprise, bravado, tears and the tolling of bells.

News of the allied attack drew shoppers to banks of televisions, sent people to prayer vigils and tied up phone lines as Coast residents tried to comfort each other and check on relatives in the military.

"Let's go to war. Let's go to war," was the chant sent up by a group of some 20 military men marching in formation about 9 p.m. on Keesler Air Force Base near Irish Hill Drive and Hubbard Place in Biloxi.

In Bay St. Louis, church bells tolled at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church on Beach Boulevard, and the



SOURCE: Wire services, CNN

SUN HERALD/WIRE SERVICES GRAPHIC

The Air Force's F-15E Eagle strike-fighters from Dhahran, backed by the Navy's carrier-based A-6 Intruder warplanes, were on the front line of the invasion.

explosions shook the ground in the Iraqi capital. An oil refinery 10 miles away was in flames, and flashes of light brightened the night sky, apparent anti-aircraft fire, they said.

"Operation Desert Shield" became "Operation Desert Storm" around 12:50 a.m. (3:50 p.m. CST) as F-15E fighter-bombers took off from the largest U.S. air base in central Saudi Arabia.

The air offensive, aimed at troops and other strategic sites in both Iraq

criminal" and vowed to crush "the satanic intentions of the White House."

"The great showdown has begun," Saddam said in a radio message, monitored in Nicosia.

Speaking from an undisclosed location, Saddam said: "With the perseverance of the believers, the dawn of

Please see **WAR,** *A-2*

Place in Biloxi.

In Bay St. Louis, church bells tolled at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church on Beach Boulevard, and the parking lot was full there and at First Baptist Church on Main Street.

"I'm sick about it. I'm very

Please see **WATCH,** *A-2*

TIM ISBELL/SUN HERALD PHOTOGRAPHER

Frances Easterling, left, and Rosemary Adamo listen to TV reports in the Biloxi City Hall of the first shots fired Wednesday in the U.S. attack on Iraq. This group has been meeting since Aug. 22.

Families try to deal with news

By TAMMIE CESSNA LANGFORD
STAFF WRITER

■ Frances Easterling found out at 6 last night, via live television reports, that her son was headed for war.

She wept.

As did the other 25 or so people who had gathered with her at Biloxi City Hall for a Saudi Support Group meeting.

"He'd only been home a few months from Germany when he left this time," she said of her son Louis.

The support group has been meeting at city hall every week for about three months to lend support to each other, share letters from their children, grandchildren and friends and to pray about the threat

Please see **FAMILIES,** *A-2*

WEATHER A-12

Mostly sunny

INDEX

Ann/Abby	B-4	Movies	B-2
Bridge	B-4	Newsmakers	C-4
Classified	C-6	Obituaries	C-2
Comics	B-5	Opinion	A-10,11
Financial	D-4,5	Puzzles	C-10,11
Horoscope	B-4	Television	B-4

COASTLIVING

Golden Globes set the pace in entertainment world.

Page B-1

SPORTS

Kentucky beats Ole Miss 95-85; Georgia tops MSU 81-73.

Page D-1

FLASH POINT PERSIAN GULF

WATCH

Continued from Page A-1

depressed," said Annie Rose Krankey of Bay St. Louis. "I'm only praying that whatever decision was made was the right one."

Krankey lost her husband in the World War II invasion of Normandy. Her son, 15 months old then, never saw his father.

Now Krankey has grandsons, ages 21 and 25, and she is worried about their future.

"I remember when Pearl Harbor was bombed," she said. "I can go back to the feelings then, and it's all coming back. Of course, we were attacked, we did not do the attacking.

"It's kind of a mixed feeling now. It was justified then. It was worth fighting for. Was it worth dying for?"

Many city streets across the Coast were quiet in the hours after the attack, but air traffic was very heavy at Keesler.

Former Biloxi Councilwoman Mary Carpenter, who lives on Acacia Avenue just across the railroad tracks from the base, said the planes drowned out her TV.

"I was just sitting here wondering what is happening. It's just been one (plane) after the other for about 30 minutes," Carpenter said at 8:25 p.m.

Carpenter said she could not tell whether the planes were landing or taking off.

Keesler spokesman Sgt. Roger Burdette said he had no comment on the planes.

Nancy Brooks, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Navy Seabee Base in Gulfport said: "We are all standing by in case we receive orders to make any changes. Right now, nothing has changed."

One Coastian is far more familiar with the targets of the attack than most: Sergio "Sarge" Coletta of Moss Point spent about four months in Iraq, first in hiding and then as a hostage at a military complex 25 miles northwest of Baghdad.

"There were bombs to the north and west of Baghdad. That's where we were," Coletta said. "That location may not be there anymore."

Coletta, who was on vacation in New Jersey on Wednesday night, went into hiding shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait in early August. He was picked up by the Iraqi secret police Aug. 25 and was released in early December.

He said he was familiar with a refinery hit by U.S. bombers. His group of

T.M. ISBELL/SUN HERALD PHOTOGRAPHER

T.R. Brady, left, and Sherry Scully, owners and operators of the Worth Motor Lodge in Gulfport, show their support for the troops in the Persian Gulf. The men had the sign put up Wednesday morning.

fare he tunes in on the radio when he reports to work as the evening manager at the Beachview Exxon Service Station. Instead, he left the dial on the country station that the day shift prefers because it was broadcasting news of the war.

Corwin had the speakers turned up so that customers could hear as they stopped for gas. He said that at 6 p.m., he had a flurry of business that lasted for about 45 minutes.

Two customers commented about the possibility of higher gasoline prices, and one pessimist went so far as to say that he expected the price to triple or quadruple, Corwin said.

By 8:30 p.m., business had slowed. Corwin kept his ear tuned to the news as he served a customer. "I'm just like everybody else," he said. "I want to know what's going on. I'm glad they did something finally."

■■■

The regulars at the American Legion Joe Graham Post 119 in Gulfport also were following the reports on the war.

"Initially, I would have said that it wouldn't happen," said Win Tullos, a veteran of World War II and the Ko-

"I thought we should have attacked sooner. We knew we were going to do it. Why wait?" Smith said.

■■■

"I never thought it would come to this, but he (President Bush) had to do it," Barbara Bandish of Biloxi said as she watched the news report at Pro Image in the mall.

"I'm not saying it is right or wrong, but we all prayed that it wouldn't come to this," said Bandish, whose husband is on alert with his reserve unit.

■■■

Elizabeth Hilbun of Moss Point was quietly anxious Wednesday night when she got word that fighting had begun in the Persian Gulf. Her husband, Dr. Glyn R. Hilbun, is a surgeon and the last time she had heard from him, he was stationed within 20 miles of the north Saudi border, living in a tent with a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital unit.

"I talked to him Monday morning, about 7 a.m. I could tell he was apprehensive," she said. "He didn't know when he'd be able to call again, and said it would probably be awhile."

quiet and nearly empty. The downtown Marshall Park, where a prayer vigil had been held the previous night, was dark and vacant.

The bowling alley, Ocean Lanes on U.S. 90, was bustling with the usual league bowling activity. Between games and between frames, some of the bowlers headed for the alley's lounge area, where a corner television set was the center of attention.

Most of those questioned said they hated to see war but hoped it would be over quickly without much loss of American life.

"I think it's something we had to do and I'm glad we're doing it right," said 31-year-old Don Gavin, a lineman for Mississippi Power Co. "Since the other countries are behind us, it makes you feel like you're stepping in the right direction.

"I think we may have waited too long, though," Gavin said.

"This guy's another Hitler," said 28-year-old Scott Stafford, referring to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "We needed to knock him out. We're the only ones who could do it."

■■■

Reservist Lucy Colangione, a first

HOUR BY HOUR

■ Here is an hour-by-hour account of events as war began in the Persian Gulf. (All times are Central Standard.)

▸ **3:50 p.m.:** First F-15E fighter-bombers took off in pairs from the largest U.S. air base in central Saudi Arabia.

▸ **5:40 p.m.:** ABC and CNN television news report "flashes in the sky" over Baghdad and that it appeared tracers were coming up from the ground.

▸ **5:56 p.m.:** An Associated Press bulletin quotes the U.S. military announcing that war with Iraq began as a squadron of U.S. fighter-bombers took off from the U.S. air base in Saudi Arabia.

▸ **6:15 p.m.:** White House issues statement by President Bush confirming that "forces were engaging targets in Iraq and Kuwait."

▸ **8 p.m:** President Bush addresses the nation announcing the decision to attack Iraq and Kuwait and says, "We will not fail."

▸ **8:30 p.m.:** Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell tell Pentagon reporters hundreds of U.S. and allied warplanes launched predawn strikes in Iraq and Kuwait and met "no air resistance" from Iraq.

FAMILIES

Continued from Page A-1

of war in the Persian Gulf.

The threats became a reality Wednesday night.

"Right now I don't know what to think," said Biloxi Mayor Pete Halat, whose son, Sean, is on the USS Wisconsin in the Gulf. "I'm scared."

Halat last talked to his son Saturday. Sean turned 25 Friday.

"He said they had been ordered to take the ship out. He said it was looking bad," Halat said. "I said be careful. He said 'Don't worry, Dad, it's my job.' "

Larry and Elizabeth Higginbotham last talked to one of their sons Monday.

They have two in the war, Corp. Larry Higginbotham and Lance Corp. John Pettfils.

"We knew it was coming," Larry Higginbotham said.

"The thing that upsets me more than anything is the protesters' saying this is for oil," he said. "It's for a lot more than oil. It's for freedom."

The Higginbothams and others at City Hall were there to once again look toward each other for support. The support intensified as each walked into the council room and found out through television that war had broken out.

"Do y'all want us to have a meeting

asked. "Do you think it would help now to talk, or to wait?"

They opted to wait. They joined hands in a circle and prayed "The Lord is My Shepherd . . ." aloud in unison.

Belvel started the support group because, he said, he knew that families of troops sent to Saudi Arabia would need to look to each other in the event of a crisis.

"I knew people were going to need help," Belvel said. "I spent 20 years in the service. If I could go back, I'd do it tomorrow."

Belvel asked, and those present agreed, to meet again at 6 p.m. Friday at the Biloxi City Hall.

"I think everybody will know more about what's going on then," he said. "Personally, I'm just sitting here shaking; more inside than out.

"We're going to need each other more and more and more. We're just warming up now," he told the group.

Sarah Young was there with plans to survive another war.

"My son was in Vietnam," she said. "I didn't think I would survive his being over there. Now I have a grandson right at the front.

"I had no group like this when my son was in Vietnam. I had nobody for support. If I had not been a strong Christian I don't think I would have come through it."

Diane Seymour is optimistic that the war in the Persian Gulf won't last long.

"We've been waiting and waiting and waiting," she said. "Now that it's

invaded Kuwait in early August. He was picked up by the Iraqi secret police Aug. 25 and was released in early December.

He said he was familiar with a refinery hit by U.S. bombers. His group of hostages could see some of the installations and the anti-aircraft guns when they were being held there.

"They were manually operated, similar to Navy guns in World War II, Coletta said. "It looked like they had radar to pick up planes, but from there on it was manual."

Coletta said the night attack probably surprised the Iraqis.

"Our guards couldn't believe we could do anything at night and, right now, everyone is holding their breath to see what will happen at daylight," he said.

Elsewhere along the Coast:

The streets of Biloxi were quiet. Glenn Mattina Sr. was looking for a place to pray. He hurried up the steps of Nativity BVM Cathedral on Howard Avenue, wearing sneakers, blue jeans and a light jacket. He was opening the Upstairs-Downstairs Club, a bar in downtown Biloxi where he is an owner, when news of war flashed on his television set.

Prayer helped Mattina through physical problems, so he decided that prayer was appropriate on this occasion. "I'm not what you'd call an overly religious person, but I am religious," he said. "It's just sad. Regardless of what side they are on, (people) are going to die."

■ ■ ■

On U.S. 90 in Gulfport, Tim Corwin passed up the usual rock 'n' roll

The regulars at the American Legion Joe Graham Post 119 in Gulfport also were following the reports on the war.

"Initially, I would have said that it wouldn't happen," said Win Tullos, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. "However, now that it has happened — and I've only been wrong 150 times this year, so far — in one week's time (Iraq) cannot stand up to the onslaught of a modern nation like ours. I wouldn't be surprised, when dawn rises over Iraq, that they will admit that they've made one of the stupidest mistakes ever.

"We're one of the most powerful countries in the world, and I'll be extremely devastated if I find out that all the money I've spent on the defense of the United States is not being spent right."

■ ■ ■

A group of people gathered around a television set at Radio Shack in Edgewater Mall in Biloxi, stoically receiving the news.

"I have mixed emotions about it. I'm scared and I hate that it started, but I will be glad when they get it over. I have a son who's on the list to go," Judy Torney of Gulfport said.

"I think it's time somebody stopped him (Saddam). It's a dirty shame that we have to do it, but it was unavoidable. You bet I support them, you have to," said George White, who is visiting the Coast from Des Moines, Iowa.

According to Brad Smith of Ocean Springs, the U.S. should have attacked Iraq when Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Hospital unit.

"I talked to him Monday morning, about 7 a.m. I could tell he was apprehensive," she said. "He didn't know when he'd be able to call again, and said it would probably be awhile."

■ ■ ■

Ann Adelle Edwards of Ocean Springs has been through this before. Her husband, Dr. John B. Edwards, also served in the Vietnam War.

"I know what it is to go through it, the waking up in the middle of the night and wondering what has happened," she said. "But we didn't have telephone service from Vietnam. There is a way to converse with troops that have gone to Saudi Arabia."

On Wednesday night, her husband was still in Texas, but could be sent to Saudi Arabia at any time, she said. He and his partner, Dr. Strawford H. Dees, both left their homes and practice in late November to serve in the Army Reserves.

When they left their practice, Plastic Surgery of South Mississippi in Biloxi, it affected 19 employees, she said. The staff has been pared down to a receptionist and a nurse to answer any patient questions that might arise.

Ann Adelle Edwards has helped to keep the business's bills paid and invoices filed.

But Wednesday night, she was at home with every television in the house on, she said, "They're all on different stations."

■ ■ ■

The streets of Ocean Springs were

to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "We needed to knock him out. We're the only ones who could do it."

■ ■ ■

Reservist Lucy Colangione, a first lieutenant with the 403rd CAMS Unit at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, was at a Waveland Board of Aldermen meeting on an animal control matter. But her mind was on the war and that the fact that she could be called to go — something she is willing and prepared to do.

"I got chills, but I was glad to know we started, because it means we're going to be done soon," Colangione said. "We were promised it would be quick, and he (President Bush) went in quick, and he's promised us it will be fast.

To Colangione, fast means "under six months," adding, however, that she expects the heavy bombardment to be over in less than a month's time.

■ ■ ■

Sandy Wilkinson said her customers at First Precinct Restaurant and Lounge at Beach Boulevard and Main Street in Bay St. Louis were "kind of quiet" Wednesday evening.

"I think people think it's just inevitable," she said. "Even my 11-year-old daughter said, 'Mom, I think we should pray about this right now.' "

■ Staff Writers Littice Bacon, Anita Lee, Jim Hannaford, Ken Fink, Metric Dockins, Steve Dickerson, Betty Attaway and Hancock County Bureau Chief Nan Patton Ehrbright and Jackson County Bureau Chief Karen S. Nelson contributed to this report.

The support intensified as each walked into the council room and found out through television that war had broken out.

"Do y'all want us to have a meeting or do you just want to watch the television," group leader Dick Belvel

come through it.

Diane Seymour is optimistic that the war in the Persian Gulf won't last long.

"We've been waiting and waiting and waiting," she said. "Now that it's started, lets just get in there and get out."

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

■ The Joint Legislative Budget Committee's recommended budget cut for the Gulf Coast Research Lab is $399,718 for the fiscal year that begins in July. The lab's current state-appropriated budget is $3,050,968. The cuts will mean a 13 percent decrease. In a Jan. 9 story on Page C-1, The Sun Herald incorrectly reported that the cut would be $849,718.

■ If you find a mistake of fact in The Sun Herald that is serious enough to warrant a correction or clarification, call immediately so we can make it right in the next day's edition. On weekdays, call 896-2390; on weekends, call 896-2340 after 1 p.m.

Today's Newsmakers column is on Page C-4.

THE SUN HERALD

(ISSN 121-290X)

Established daily as The Sun Herald Oct. 1, 1985. Formerly The Daily Herald, founded Oct. 4, 1884, and The Sun, founded Oct. 1, 1973. Published daily by Gulf Publishing Co. Inc., 205 DeBuys Road, Gulfport, MS 39507, P.O. Box 4567, Biloxi, MS 39535-4567.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

MAIN OFFICE
205 DeBuys Road, Gulfport, 39507

BUREAU OFFICES
151 Main Street, Bay St. Louis, 39520
Spring Plaza Shopping Center, Ocean Springs, 39564

MAILING ADDRESS

MAIN OFFICE
P.O. Box 4567, Biloxi, MS 39535-4567

BUREAU OFFICES
P.O. Box 195, Bay St. Louis, 39520
1529 Bienville Blvd., Ocean Springs, 39564

HOW TO CALL US

A TOLL-FREE incoming line is available for your convenience. Call 1-800-222-9502 from within Mississippi or dial direct to the appropriate department:

Circulation	896-2441
Advertising	896-2422
Classified Advertising	896-2380
To Report News	896-2341
News Information	896-2390
Other Assistance	896-2100
FROM JACKSON COUNTY	
Circulation/Delivery	872-2011
To Main Newsroom	762-4298
Jackson County Office	875-2777
Classified Advertising	875-8216
Display Advertising	762-4298
FROM HANCOCK COUNTY	
Circulation/Delivery	467-2750
To Main Newsroom	255-1115
Hancock County Bureau	467-6663
Classified Advertising	255-1115
Display Advertising	255-1115
FROM STONE COUNTY	
Circulation/Delivery	928-5788
All Other Services	1-800-222-9502

DELIVERY SERVICE

CIRCULATION CUSTOMER SERVICE: Numbers listed at left.

REPLACEMENT DELIVERY: If your delivery is late or your paper is delivered in unsatisfactory condition, please call your carrier. If you need the number or your carrier is unavailable, please call us before 11 AM Monday through Sunday & Holidays for prompt replacement delivery.

TO REPORT A BROKEN VENDING MACHINE: Call 896-2446 (Mon-Fri, 7am-6pm) or on Weekends, call 896-2441 before 11 AM.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(Effective Jan. 1, 1991)

HOME DELIVERY BY CARRIER
(7 Mornings a Week)

1 Mo.	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	1 Yr.
$8.75	$26.25	$49.87	$94.50

SINGLE COPY RATES
Daily/Saturday $1.35 Sunday $1.25

MAIL RATES

■ Harrison, Hancock, Jackson, Stone and Pearl River Counties: $10.10/Mo. All other U.S. Counties: $11.00/Mo.

Overseas, other than APO/FPO numbers, $11.00/Mo. plus postage as determined by current Post Office rates.

Newspaper subscription payments made directly to your carrier should be limited to one month payments. All payments for 3 months or more should be made directly to Gulf Publishing Company, Inc., P.O. Box 4567, Biloxi, MS 39535-4567.

Your newspaper dealer and carrier are independent contractors, and payments by subscribers are not subject to control by The Sun Herald.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Gulf Publishing Company, Inc., P.O. Box 4567, Biloxi, MS 39535-4567. Second Class postage paid at Gulfport, MS.

WAR

Continued from Page A-1

victory nears as this great showdown begins."

There was no immediate word from Iraq on damage and casualties there or in Kuwait. Nor was there any immediate sign of an Iraqi missile attack on Israel, as Baghdad had threatened.

Rumors flew through the Persian Gulf that Iraq launched Scud ground-to-ground missiles against Saudi Arabia, but Cheney called those reports false. An Israeli military official said allied warplanes struck Scud missile launch sites in western Iraq.

The furious early morning assault was the climax to a crisis that built over more than five months, as Saddam, whose forces stormed Kuwait in a lightning invasion Aug. 2, rejected world condemnation and dismissed U.N. economic sanctions designed to force him out of the occupied emirate.

Bush told the American people in his Wednesday night address, "We will not fail."

"All reasonable efforts" to resolve the Persian Gulf by diplomacy and economic sanctions had failed and Saddam "met every overture of peace with contempt," said the somber president. "The world could wait no longer."

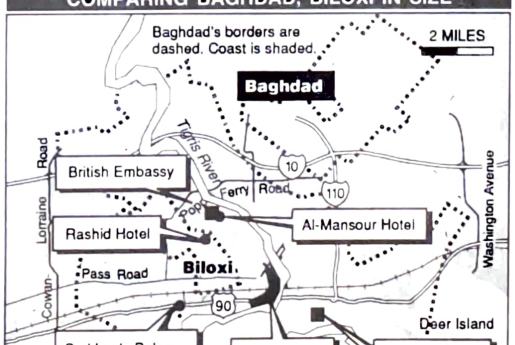
The American warplanes took off in pairs, disappearing in red dots that winked out as they gained altitude. The aircraft were heavily loaded with bombs and underwing fuel tanks for the long trip north — 200 miles to Kuwait, 600 to Baghdad.

In Washington, a senior military official said the initial U.S. attack also included "a wave of cruise missiles," possibly from U.S. battleships in the Persian Gulf. The missiles apparently were launched to force Iraqi anti-aircraft defenses to turn on their radars and be spotted and destroyed by the attackers.

Cheney said the U.S. focus "is on the destruction of Saddam's offensive military capabilities."

The U.S.-led attack came one day after the Tuesday midnight deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. After that, the council declared, the assembled international military force would be free to drive the Iraqis from the conquered oil-rich enclave.

COMPARING BAGHDAD, BILOXI IN SIZE



SUN HERALD GRAPHIC

OPINION

HISTORY'S HEADLINES

1 year ago: A federal judge in Miami set a March 1990 date for ex-Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega's drug trafficking trial to begin. (The actual start of the trial, twice delayed, has yet to occur.)

5 years ago: President Reagan had three small polyps removed from his colon; they proved benign.

10 years ago: Iran's chief hostage negotiator said two separate clarifications had been requested on the terms and conditions of the U.S. transfer of Iranian assets through a third country as part of a resolution of the hostage crisis.

WORLD WAR II

FIFTY YEARS AGO TODAY

Jan. 17

1•9•4•1

German warplanes return to Malta in another unsuccessful attempt to sink the British aircraft carrier Illustrious, which is undergoing repairs. Churchill says Britain needs far more American armaments than it can pay for.

Source: "2194 Days of War," W. H. Smith Publishers Inc., The Associated Press

■ **In 1706,** Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston.

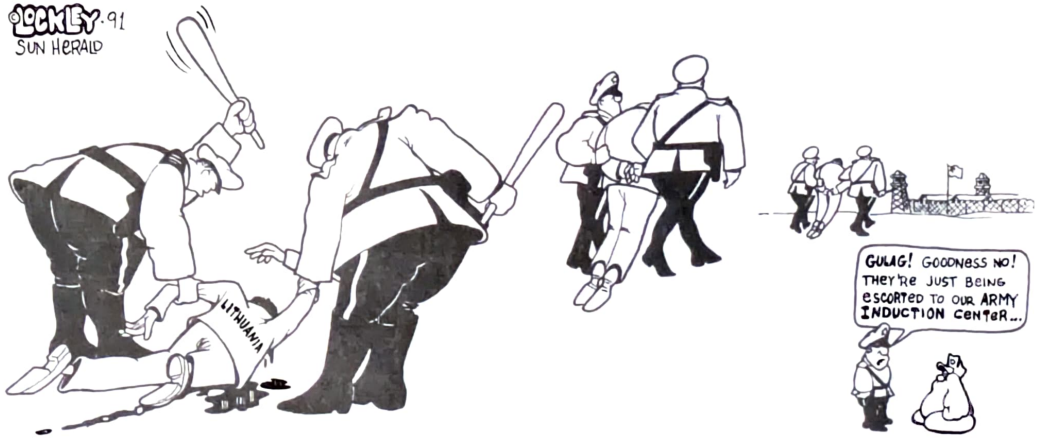
■ **In 1806,** Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha, gave birth to James Madison Randolph, the first child born in the White House.

■ **In 1893,** the 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, died in Fremont, Ohio, at the age of 70.

■ **In 1917,** the United States paid Denmark $25 million for the Virgin Islands.

■ **In 1945,** Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw from the Nazis.

■ **In 1945,** Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews from the Nazis, disappeared in Hungary while in So-



LETTERS

Is oil worth fighting for?

When we speak of oil, the first, and often only, thing that comes to mind is gasoline. What else comes from petroleum? The fertilizers and pesticides that enable crops to grow and feed the world's people come from oil. The synthetic fabrics that clothe us come from oil. The tires on our cars and bikes as well as the roads we travel come from oil. The plastics that are so important to us come from oil, as does much of the energy to heat and light our homes. Even the medicines used to save lives and relieve pain are from petroleum. Oil is everywhere.

When you say oil you are talking about the world's economy. One of the factors in the African famines of the '70s was the increased price of oil that made the fertilizers and pesticides too expensive for Third World countries to afford, hence no crops. Millions died and continue to die today as a result.

If Saddam is not stopped he will control all the oil in the whole Mideast through intimidation. If he controls the oil he controls the economy and thus the world. If he chooses to raise the price of oil, millions will die and more millions (maybe even you) will lose jobs and thereby the freedom to live as they have. Appeasement of tyrants

The U.S. has spent well over $3 trillion in the past 20 years for the most advanced air, sea, and land weaponry the world has ever seen. If we're *not* ready, I agree with Andy Rooney when he says, "Where do we get our refund?!"

Our military planning has for years been focused on a global scale. If we can't focus that planning on an area the size of Montana, we've wasted a lot of planning time.

Our military commanders and troops are the best-trained in the world, let no one doubt it. Analysts consider that our troops can use their better weapons and systems far more effectively than the Iraqis can use theirs.

"Are we ready?" I am confident that we are.

My prayers are that there will yet be a peaceful and lasting solution to the threat of Saddam Hussein, but, if war begins, that it will be decisive, short-lived, and with minimum loss of life and limb on both sides. At this time and in the days to come, President Bush and our military need less talk and more prayer.

TIM BATTLE
Ocean Springs

Human error kills, not train or speed

First of all, I'm not a pig-iron

CARTOON TO THE EDITOR

BILL PATTISON JR., *Biloxi*

BILL MINOR

Free-lance Writer

Stan Flint's touch shapes state politics

JACKSON

A political junkie since the age of 10, Stan Flint, now 38, has built a reputation as one of Mississippi's hottest properties in the business of running political campaigns.

The former Pascagoulan successfully managed his first campaign when he was only 21, helping to elect Emily Baker as a county judge, the first woman judge in Jackson County, unseating a 29-year incumbent.

Since then, the black-haired, bespectacled Flint has jumped onto the state political stage with a bang. Four years ago, he was the campaign director for Attorney General Mike Moore, then a hard-hitting Jackson County district attorney, but little known outside of his home area.

He and Moore started out over the state with $200 in campaign money in their pockets and a MasterCard. Moore wound up being elected the state's AG, whipping Jackson's Mayor Dale Danks in the Democratic primaries and soundly trouncing Jim Herring, who twice had made statewide races for governor and lieutenant governor, in the general election.

Although much in demand by better-known candidates in the 1988 congressional races, Flint chose instead to take on the campaign of a small-town funeral home operator, Mike Parker, who was making his maiden political voyage in seeking the vacant 4th Congressional District seat.

With Flint calling the signals, Parker put on a media blitz and squeaked into the Democratic runoff with Jackson attorney Brad Pigott, who had the tacit backing of the Democratic power structure and a substantial campaign treasury.

Although Pigott had a wide lead going in, Parker overcame it in the runoff and grabbed the Democratic nomination, going away. Again Flint's

Hayes, died in Fremont, Ohio, at the age of 70.

- **In 1917,** the United States paid Denmark $25 million for the Virgin Islands.
- **In 1945,** Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw from the Nazis.
- **In 1945,** Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews from the Nazis, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.
- **In 1946,** the United Nations Security Council held its first meeting.
- **In 1950,** 11 masked men robbed a Brink's office in Boston of $1.2 million in cash and $1.5 million in checks, bonds and securities.
- **In 1966,** a U.S.A.F. B-52 carrying four unarmed hydrogen bombs crashed on the Spanish coast. Three bombs were soon recovered; the fourth wasn't found until the following April.
- **In 1984,** the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that the private use of home video cassette recorders to tape television programs for later viewing did not violate federal copyright laws.

SaidLines

"If there is one basic element in our Constitution, it is civilian control of the military." — President Harry Truman (1884-1972).

"They are driving their tanks right at people! They are beating people! They are beating women! — Eduardas Potashinskas, a worker at Lithuanian TV who watched Soviet troops seize broadcast facilities.

Drop Us A Line

- The Sun Herald invites letters to the editor from readers on subjects of public interest. Letters that are brief and to the point are preferred; none should be longer than 300 words. Editors reserve the right to edit or reject. Letters must include — for verification purposes — the writer's signature, name, residential address and telephone number. The writer's name and community of residence will be used with all published letters. Mail to:

Letters to the Editor
Associate Editor Marie Harris
The Sun Herald
P.O. Box 4567
Biloxi, MS 39535-4567

World countries to afford, hence no crops. Millions died and continue to die today as a result.

If Saddam is not stopped he will control all the oil in the whole Mideast through intimidation. If he controls the oil he controls the economy and thus the world. If he chooses to raise the price of oil, millions will die and more millions (maybe even you) will lose jobs and thereby the freedom to live as they have. Appeasement of tyrants ultimately means death.

The world appeased Hitler to save thousands of soldiers, and it cost the world millions instead. During my 21 years of military service, I understood, as do the GIs I currently work with, that part of my job was to die if necessary that others might live. It sounds cold-hearted, but it is better to lose thousands of soldiers now than millions of soldiers and civilians later.

We will fight Saddam. It is just a matter of when and at what price. Remember, there is nothing you touch that isn't oil. Freedom? You bet we fight for world freedom and the freedom to live. Is oil worth the fight? Decide for yourself.

DAVID T. HALE
MSgt. USAF (Ret.)
Biloxi

Pray that we're ready and that we needn't be

"Are we ready for war in Iraq?" is an oft-heard question of the past few weeks.

be decisive, short-lived, and with minimum loss of life and limb on both sides. At this time and in the days to come, President Bush and our military need less talk and more prayer.

TIM BATTLE
Ocean Springs

Human error kills, not train or speed

First of all, I'm not a pig-iron zealot. I don't belong to "Save the Choo-choo," "Faster tracks Anonymous" or "Trains Amok." I'm not a railroad worker, but I do confess to occasionally waving to an engineer, mostly due to boredom and boyhood habit.

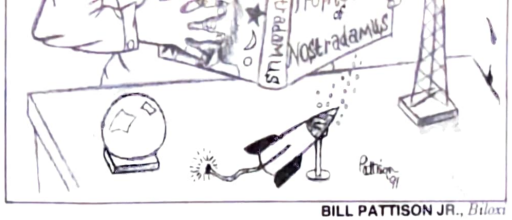
My knowledge of railroads is limited to folklore of Casey Jones and John Henry.

But, I do ... have some common sense concerning the collision of a large object with a small object, for example, a million-pound-plus freight train with a two-thousand-pound car.

Why, I have often mused, must the media always report: "Train hits car"? This sounds as if the train left the tracks and chased down the car. Strange.

Why not: "Car pulls into path of oncoming train; big crash ensues." Sounds more accurate, huh?

You don't have to be a rocket scientist or politician to know it matters not that the train is going 25 mph or 75 mph; the momentum of all that cold iron will never allow



BILL PATTISON JR., *Biloxi*

itself to stop in time for somebody to "beat the train."

Granted, all car/train fatalities aren't related to getting across the tracks as fast as possible, but I'd be willing to guess that most of the people who were injured or killed lived near and used that fateful crossing more than once.

Limiting train speeds would satisfy speed-snuffers only if the limit was 5 mph or if all tracks were elevated.

I can only imagine what I could hear if I were listening to a bunch of engineers swapping "war stories" about Gulf Coast railroad crossings over morning coffee.

When a driver loads his car with human beings and sticks the key in the ignition, the life-saving responsibility begins, anew.

LENNY WEBBER
Biloxi

Civilized people do not need laws

The Judeo-Christian Bible is packed with murder and debauchery. In the book of Matthew, for example, we have the story of a "god-man" who kills a harmless fig tree. And in the book of Luke, we have the story of a "god-man" who tells his followers to kill anyone who dissents from his lunatic "teachings."

Overall, the Jesus character seems to be more like a barbarian than anything else. If not, can someone explain why "Jesus" wants us to hate our family (Luke 14:26)? Can they explain why "Jesus" wants children to cause their parents "to be put to death" (Matthew 10:21)? How does a person distill an "anti-murder" message from all of this?

More than two thousand years prior to the alleged birth of "Jesus," the ancient kingdoms of Akkadia and Sumeria relied extensively on legal systems, along with comprehensive legal codes, to ensure the well-being of life in society. These ancient laws give rise to the "Code of Hammurabi" (1792-1750 B.C.), a relic that was found in Susa, Iran (circa 1901). Etched on a slab of stone, the code of Hammurabi links modern law to the remote past, and shows that Hammurabi knew the necessity for having laws to protect the "weak from the strong."

Among "civilized" people, laws against pillage and murder have always been the norm regardless of variations in race, religion, language, etc. I am convinced, however, that you cannot call a person "civilized" if they need legal restraint, and I feel this way because I know that when people are truly civilized, they do not need laws — they do not need a "holy book" to tell them what they know already.

Barbarians need laws to restrain them from acts of murder. Savages need a "holy book" to tell them that "murder is wrong." When a person is civilized, that person needs no restraint: Such a person will pay no attention to subjects that occupy the minds of savages. Being civilized, he or she will always be much too busy trying to make life beautiful for everyone.

KENNETH M. AVERY
Biloxi

Extraordinary efforts in different directions

The question, "Has President Bush done everything he possibly could to avoid a war?" has been frequently bandied about in the national news and on the cocktail circuit, of late.

I am certain that I don't know ... and equally certain that Saddam Hussein has done everything he possibly could to start one.

T.H. 'DOC' TOUPS
Bay St. Louis

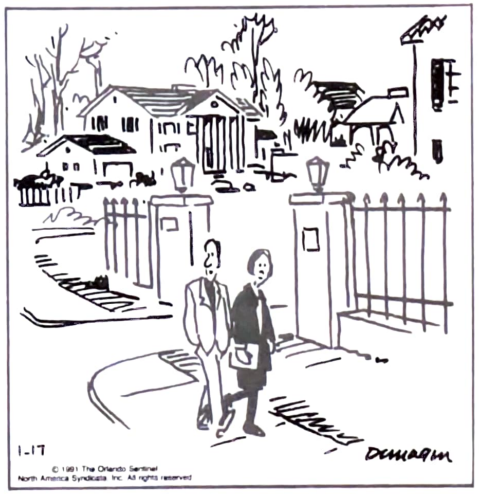
Global warming? Consider the source

I recently read that the U.S. government has awarded $210,000 for a study to determine if cows contribute to global warming when they belch. A device will be strapped on the animal close to its mouth to measure the amount of methane gas released into the air.

This money would be better spent by strapping that device near the mouths of most congressmen to see if global warming is worsened by all the *hot air* that is expelled during the time that Congress is in session.

RAYMOND J. WINEKI
Biloxi

DUNAGIN'S PEOPLE



"YOU WON'T FIND ANY LITTER IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD... AN OCCASIONAL GREY POUPON JAR PERHAPS..."

4th Congressional District seat.

With Flint calling the signals, Parker put on a media blitz and squeaked into the Democratic runoff with Jackson attorney **Brad** Pigott, who had the tacit backing of the Democratic power structure and a substantial campaign treasury.

Although Pigott had a wide lead going in, Parker overcame it in the runoff and grabbed the Democratic nomination, going away. Again Flint's astute strategy was given a lot of the credit by political observers.

Then Parker, with no military service, was confronted with Republican Tom Collins, a Vietnam veteran and celebrated POW, in a district that kept a Republican in the seat during most of the '70s.

When Collins turned negative in the general election campaign and began attacking Parker, Flint kept his candidate on the high road. Collins lost ground, and Parker was able to buck the GOP tide on election day.

For the last two years, Flint served as administrative assistant to Parker in Washington, fulfilling a commitment to remain on Parker's staff only that long until he (Flint) returned to the political arena in Mississippi.

Another event has come along to convince Flint it's time to come home: His wife is pregnant with their first child, and the couple is determined to have their baby in Mississippi.

The fact that this is also election year in Mississippi is "providential," as Flint puts it. So he's hanging out his shingle here this week as a professional political consultant.

Not just a political consultant, Flint says, but also a "project manager."

"I'm the how-to-do-it-and-get-it-done guy," he declared. "I do understand public perception and dealing with people. I think that is due to my grassroots background."

Flint fondly remembers the times when his late father, J.W., ran for the state Legislature and for mayor of Pascagoula in the '60s. "I was just a kid passing out cards at rallies." His dad, who was a union organizer and business agent, was a racial progressive in the days when there was little place for it in Mississippi politics.

"He was honest and straightforward and stood for the right thing, traits I have come to look for in candidates I want to help elect," Flint said.

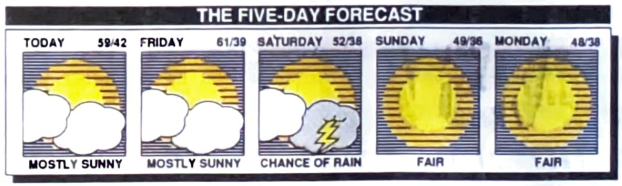
There's a "good possibility" he will be working with Moore's re-election campaign, Flint says, but not campaign manager, since he will very likely be a consultant for other candidates.

One campaign battle he would not like to see is Mike Moore vs. former Gov. Bill Allain for Attorney General. "I've been a consistent supporter of Bill Allain, and I would not want him as an opponent," Flint said.

- Bill Minor of Jackson, who has covered state politics since 1947, writes Thursday and Sunday columns for Mississippi newspapers.

WEATHER

THE FIVE-DAY FORECAST



COAST TODAY

Skies: Mostly sunny.
Chance of rain: Little
Highs: 60 to 65 **Lows:** 40 to 45
Winds: Northwest 5 to 10 mph

COAST YESTERDAY

	High	Low	Rain
Biloxi	64	33	0.0
Gulfport	NA	NA	NA

Records at Keesler AFB

High	76 in 1950
Low	21 in 1972
Rain	2.60 in 1955

SUN	MOON
Rise 6:53 a.m.	Rise 7:53 a.m.
Set 5:19 p.m.	Set 7:05 p.m.

Jan. 23 Jan. 30 Feb. 6 Feb. 14

First Full Last New

RIVER STAGES

	Flood Stage	Current Stage	24-hour change
Pascagoula River			
Hattiesburg	22	3.5	-0.4
Waynesboro	35	6.1	-0.5
Merrill	22	8.8	-1.2
Pearl River			
Columbia	17	7.2	-3.2

TIDES

Tides are for Biloxi Bay. For other points listed, add or subtract times as shown:

Date	Time	High	Time	Low
Thu 1-17	11:14p	1.4	9:47a	-0.6
Fri 1-18	11:46p	1.1	10:01a	-0.4
Sat 1-19			9:55a	-0.2
Sun 1-20	12:16a	0.8	9:30a	0.0
Mon 1-21	12:31a	0.5	8:03a	0.2
	3:41p	0.7		
Tue 1-22	3:46p	1.0	2:29a	0.0
Wed 1-23	4:21p	1.3	3:04a	-0.4
Thu 1-24	5:04p	1.7	3:50a	-0.7
Fri 1-25	6:04p	1.9	4:45a	-1.0
Sat 1-26	6:58p	2.0	5:41a	-1.2

Location	High	Low
Bayou LaBatre	-00:45	-00:44
Horn Island Pass	-00:01	-00:33
Pascagoula Sound	-00:08	-00:26
Pascagoula River Entrance	+00:32	-00:22
Ship Island Pass	-00:10	-00:10
Cat Island	-00:12	+00:27
Bay St. Louis	+01:25	+01:46
Chandeleur Light	-00:07	-00:01
Southwest Pass	-02:02	-02:11

NATIONAL SUMMARY

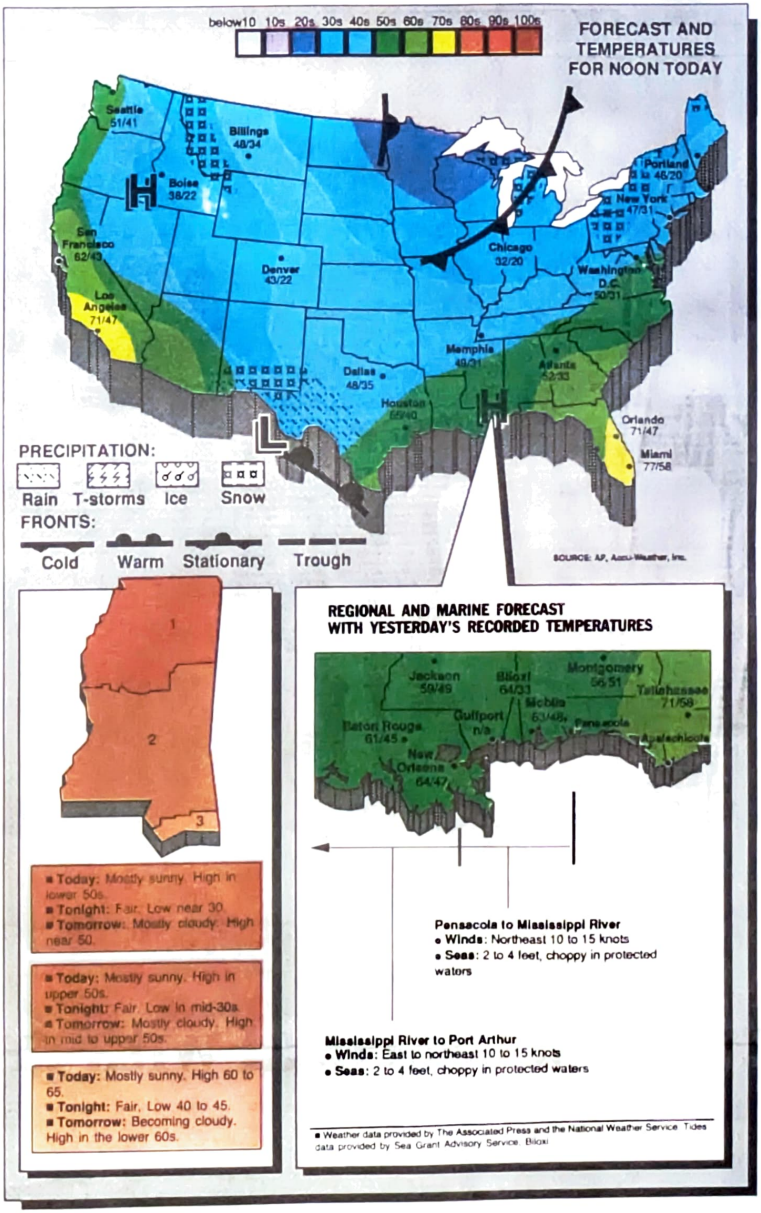
Snow was scattered over the West and from the Plains to New England on Wednesday, and rain fell along the East Coast.

Thunderstorms in Florida spun off a tornado that touched down at Mandarin, but no injuries or major damage were reported.

At midday, snow was scattered in central New Mexico, north-central Arizona, eastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, west-central Montana, northern Idaho and southeastern Washington state.

Wind gusted to about 50 mph at Blythe, Calif., and to more than 40 mph along the Colorado River from Yuma, Ariz., to Bullhead City, Ariz.

Snow also was scattered in east-central New England, southern Lower Michigan, west-central Illinois, south-central Iowa and the Nebraska Panhandle.


below10 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s
FORECAST AND TEMPERATURES FOR NOON TODAY
Seattle 51/41
Billings 48/34
Boise 38/22
San Francisco 62/49
Los Angeles 71/47
Denver 43/22
Chicago 32/20
Portland 46/20
New York 47/31
Washington D.C. 50/31
Memphis 49/31
Atlanta 52/33
Dallas 48/35
Houston 66/40
Orlando 71/47
Miami 77/58
PRECIPITATION:
Rain T-storms Ice Snow
FRONTS:
Cold Warm Stationary Trough
SOURCE: AP, Accu-Weather, Inc.
1
2
3
■ Today: Mostly sunny. High in lower 50s.
■ Tonight: Fair. Low near 30.
■ Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy. High near 50.
■ Today: Mostly sunny. High in upper 50s.
■ Tonight: Fair. Low in mid-30s.
■ Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy. High in mid to upper 50s.
■ Today: Mostly sunny. High 60 to 65.
■ Tonight: Fair. Low 40 to 45.
■ Tomorrow: Becoming cloudy. High in the lower 60s.
REGIONAL AND MARINE FORECAST WITH YESTERDAY'S RECORDED TEMPERATURES
Jackson 59/49
Biloxi 64/33
Montgomery 56/51
Tallahassee 71/58
Mobile 63/48
Gulfport n/a
Pensacola
Baton Rouge 61/45
New Orleans 64/47
Apalachicola
Pensacola to Mississippi River
• Winds: Northeast 10 to 15 knots
• Seas: 2 to 4 feet, choppy in protected waters
Mississippi River to Port Arthur
• Winds: East to northeast 10 to 15 knots
• Seas: 2 to 4 feet, choppy in protected waters

■ Weather data provided by The Associated Press and the National Weather Service. Tides data provided by Sea Grant Advisory Service, Biloxi.

NATIONAL REPORT

	Hi	Lo	Prc	Otlk
Albany,N.Y.	35	19	.41	cdy
Albuquerque	46	31		clr
Amarillo	47	27		cdy
Anchorage	22	03		cdy
Asheville	61	42	.83	cdy
Atlanta	58	47	.01	clr
Atlantic City	56	29	.83	cdy
Austin	68	37		rn
Baltimore	56	40	.51	clr
Billings	43	30		cdy
Birmingham	51	49	.10	cdy
Bismarck	30	13		cdy
Boise	40	24		cdy
Boston	42	29	.17	cdy
Brownsville	76	44		rn
Buffalo	45	34	.36	sn
Burlington,Vt.	38	33	.37	cdy
Casper	32	16	.13	cdy
Charleston,S.C.	71	62	.12	cdy
Charleston,W.V.	57	44	.28	cdy
Charlotte,N.C.	65	49	.84	cdy
Cheyenne	31	23	.08	cdy
Chicago	36	31	.46	cdy
Cincinnati	48	36	.17	cdy
Cleveland	52	39	.34	cdy
Columbia,S.C.	71	59	.39	cdy
Columbus,Ohio	51	38	.18	cdy
Concord,N.H.	40	20	.41	cdy
Dallas-Ft Worth	63	32		rn
Dayton	47	35	.29	cdy
Denver	39	20	.16	clr
Des Moines	24	18		cdy
Detroit	37	34	.32	sn
Duluth	30	21	.02	cdy
El Paso	55	28		cdy
Evansville	38	36	.07	cdy
Fairbanks	-03	-24		cdy
Fargo	31	27		cdy
Flagstaff	34	18	.05	clr
Grand Rapids	37	23	.27	sn
Great Falls	44	26		cdy
Greensboro,N.C.	64	52	.70	cdy
Hartford	38	21	.35	cdy
Helena	39	22	.04	cdy
Honolulu	83	65		cdy
Houston	67	36		rn
Indianapolis	43	34	.13	cdy
Jackson,Miss.	59	49		clr
Jacksonville	74	63	.18	clr
Juneau	41	22	m	rn
Kansas City	27	24	.18	cdy
Las Vegas	63	47		clr
Little Rock	49	39		cdy
Los Angeles	75	52		clr
Louisville	45	38	.02	clr
Lubbock	50	29		cdy
Memphis	49	42		cdy
Miami Beach	79	69	.42	cdy
Midland-Odessa	62	25		sn
Milwaukee	35	26	.18	cdy
Mpls-St Paul	30	20		cdy
Nashville	46	41	.07	cdy
New Orleans	64	47		rn
New York City	55	38	.71	cdy
Norfolk,Va.	72	56	.12	clr
North Platte	46	21		cdy
Oklahoma City	53	28		cdy
Omaha	29	20		cdy
Orlando	81	64	.15	clr
Philadelphia	58	37	.52	cdy
Phoenix	69	45		clr
Pittsburgh	56	41	.49	sn
Portland,Maine	41	31	.62	cdy
Portland,Ore.	47	40	.01	rn
Providence	48	26	.85	cdy
Raleigh-Durham	66	52	.18	clr
Rapid City	42	27	.02	cdy
Reno	45	24		clr
Richmond	65	51	.25	clr
Sacramento	67	45		clr
St Louis	36	34	.18	cdy
Salt Lake City	41	23	.21	cdy
San Antonio	69	34		rn
San Diego	73	50		clr
San Francisco	71	50		clr
San Juan,P.R.	83	72	.10	cdy
Santa Fe	42	23		clr
St Ste Marie	34	28		sn
Seattle	46	41		rn
Shreveport	62	43		rn
Sioux Falls	28	22		cdy
Spokane	38	29	.01	cdy
Syracuse	38	32	.67	sn
Tampa-St Pt	76	64	.03	clr
Topeka	31	27		cdy
Tucson	56	37	.01	clr
Tulsa	47	33		cdy
Washington,D.C.	53	42	.53	clr
Wichita	44	27		cdy
Wilkes Barre	44	36	.26	cdy
Wilmington,Del.	55	37	.78	clr

National Temperature Extremes for Wednesday: High 85 at Key West, Fla.; Low -9 at Alamosa, Colo. —— m —— Indicates missing information.

WORLD REPORT

Bermuda	72	61 clr
Dhahran	63	52 clr
Hong Kong	66	59 clr
London	45	36 clr
Madrid	50	30 cdy
Paris	M	M M
Rio	93	75 rn
Rome	57	48 cdy
Tokyo	50	34 clr
Toronto	37	36 cdy
Vancouver	48	36 cdy
Vienna	32	26 clr
Warsaw	32	23 cdy

Big bang theory gets challenged by new finds

By PAUL RECER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

■ PHILADELPHIA — A survey of the heavens by an international X-ray satellite discovered large clusters of galaxies that cast new doubt on a basic theory how the universe developed.

At a meeting of the American Astronomical Society on Tuesday, scientists reported that instruments on the Rosat satellite found vast arrays of galaxies about 10 billion light years away.

Since such great distances in space can also be a measure of time, the finding places the clusters at a point only a few billion years later than the "big bang" that many theorists say started the universe.

Rosat scientist Gunther Hasinger of the Max Planck Institute in Germany said the satellite detected "what may be the first glimpse of the structure of the universe" at such an early point.

He said the satellite detected X-rays streaming from quasars at the center of great galaxy groupings.

"The quasars may not be distributed randomly, but are in structures," Hasinger said. "The mere existence of such structures (at this distance) is not compatible to some theories.

Discovery of the quasar groups adds to earlier findings of immense clusters of galaxies, each with billions of stars, including one structure called the "great wall" that extends about 500 million light years across.

Additionally, the journal Nature reported last week that the Infrared Astronomy Satellite has found superclusters on a very large scale.

Scientists attending the astronomical society meeting said the discovery of structures doesn't destroy the big-bang theory, but it creates great difficulties for sub-theories that have developed to support the big bang.

First published in 1927, the big-bang theory posits that the universe began when a superdense conglomerate exploded some 10 to 20 billion years ago. Since that instant, all matter has been expanding in all directions, like shrapnel from an exploded bomb.

Although many observations have supported the basic big-bang theory, science has yet to reach a consensus on how matter expanding from the bang was able to clump together and form stars, galaxies, clusters and vast groupings such as the great wall.

Alan Dressler, a cosmologist at the Carnegie Institute in California, said that discovery of structures alone does not kill the theory.

"They do have time to grow into the structures" that have been so far

but no injuries or major damage were reported.

At midday, snow was scattered in central New Mexico, north-central Arizona, eastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, west-central Montana, northern Idaho and southeastern Washington state.

Wind gusted to about 50 mph at Blythe, Calif., and to more more than 40 mph along the Colorado River from Yuma, Ariz., to Bullhead City, Ariz.

Snow also was scattered in east-central New England, southern Lower Michigan, west-central Illinois, south-central Iowa and the Nebraska Panhandle.

upper 50s.
- **Tonight:** Fair. Low in mid-30s.
- **Tomorrow:** Mostly cloudy. High in mid to upper 50s.

- **Today:** Mostly sunny. High 60 to 65.
- **Tonight:** Fair. Low 40 to 45.
- **Tomorrow:** Becoming cloudy. High in the lower 60s.

Mississippi River to Port Arthur
- **Winds:** East to northeast 10 to 15 knots
- **Seas:** 2 to 4 feet, choppy in protected waters

■ Weather data provided by The Associated Press and the National Weather Service. Tides data provided by Sea Grant Advisory Service, Biloxi

Fla. Low 9 at Alamosa, Colo. m...Indicates ...missing information.

WORLD REPORT

Bermuda	72	61 clr
Dhahran	63	52 clr
Hong Kong	66	59 clr
London	45	36 clr
Madrid	50	30 cdy
Paris	M	M M
Rio	93	75 rn
Rome	57	48 cdy
Tokyo	50	34 clr
Toronto	37	36 cdy
Vancouver	48	36 cdy
Vienna	32	26 clr
Warsaw	32	23 cdy

Although many observations have supported the basic big-bang theory, science has yet to reach a consensus on how matter expanding from the bang was able to clump together and form stars, galaxies, clusters and vast groupings such as the great wall.

Alan Dressler, a cosmologist at the Carnegie Institute in California, said that discovery of structures alone does not kill the theory.

"They do have time to grow into the structures" that have been so far discovered.

Bombs and fire it withstood, but cathedral hurt by acid rain

By PATRICK McDOWELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

■ ROUEN, France — The proud cathedral immortalized by Claude Monet survived bombs and fire in World War II only to face a slow death from acid rain.

"Monet painted the cathedral as if it were melting," Yves Lescroart said. "Now, it really is."

As curator of historical monuments in Upper Normandy, Lescroart heads an ambitious new project to halt the steady disintegration of the cathedral's western facade.

Monet, father of the Impressionist art movement, used Notre Dame de Rouen as a model for about 30 of his best-known paintings nearly 100 years ago.

They depict the Gothic facade bathed in shimmering light and color at various times of day. The cathedral's natural color at the time was a light brown.

The facade has been blackened by decades of exposure to some of France's worst industrial pollution, aggravated by constant rainfall and prevailing westerly winds.

What once were distinct noses and eyes on its statues of biblical figures have become puddles of featureless stone. Scaffolding rings the portals to catch falling pieces.

"It's the same problem all over northern France," Lescroart said. "After the war came the chemical war."

Some of France's greatest cathedrals — at Reims, Chartres, Beauvais, and Strasbourg — lie in the postwar industrial belt stretching from Normandy to the German border.

All show signs of damage from two generations of pollution, which is slowly being reversed by factory modernization and more stringent controls.

None has been scarred so badly as Notre Dame de Rouen, which sits in a valley of the Seine River near more than 60 factories, chemical plants and oil refineries.

Smokestacks belch 100 tons of sulfur a day into the damp atmosphere between Rouen and Le Havre, the nearby port. In 1974, the total was twice that.

Frequent rains bring the pollution down on the cathedral, built of a soft, yellow regional stone favored by medieval masons.

Of all the walls and towers, the western facade is the most vulnerable. It lies directly in the unsheltered path of westerly winds that blow pollution and acid rain from Le Havre and Rouen's industrial suburb of La Couronne.

Sulfuric acid clings to the delicate stonework, forming a black stain that gradually spreads and penetrates deeper into the stone, exploding it.

The Rev. Jean Larcher, abbot of the cathedral, demonstrates the results to visitors by lightly tracing an index finger across a stone buttressing the 495-foot spire, second-highest in France after Beauvais.

"Look how tender the stone is," he said, holding up a finger covered in chalky white powder.

Age naturally takes its toll on stone, but war and pollution have hastened the process in Rouen and elsewhere.

Larcher, 57, was a boy when British bombers missed their military targets the night of April 19, 1944, and dropped seven bombs in and around the cathedral.

Much of the southern wall crumpled and one of the four pillars holding up the spire collapsed. The spire, itself the work of a 19th century restoration, remained standing.

Two wartime fires in the neighborhood added to the damage, blackening most the St. Romain's tower, the oldest part of the structure.

Forty-five years later, the World War II damage has been repaired, and Lescroart and architect Michel Lantzen are turning their attention to Monet's facade. The five-year restoration project should begin this spring.

Archaeologists will spend the first year gently spraying water on the facade with the pressure of a light drizzle, to loosen stains and neutralize acids. Scientists will test the stone chemically to find how deeply the acid has penetrated and whether any micro-organisms have become imbedded.

After the spraying, workers will brush off as much of the black stain as possible and seal the cleansed stone with protective agents. Stonework that cannot be saved will be replaced.

Most of the statues will be taken to a museum next door and be replaced by castings of silicon and powdered rock.

Restoring cathedrals is a costly process and traditionally has been solely the government's responsibility. The budget for Rouen alone last year was $1.4 million.

The Culture Ministry wants communities to pay about 40 percent of the cost.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The western facade of this French cathedral is being steadily blackened by acid rain caused by chemicals from about 60 factories nearby. The facade was made famous by painter Claude Monet.

Come see why so many people shop with us

90 Days Same as Cash

TRADITIONAL JEWELERS

Layaway 388-8984

Edgewater Mall

¼-ct. Diamond Heart Ring NOW $139	5-Diamond Band NOW ¼-ct. $299, ½-ct. $499, 1 ct. $995	Bridal Set NOW $99.95	Bridal Set NOW $399	Ring Wrap NOW $159 Diamond Solitaire sold separately	Diamond Solitaires Round NOW 1/10-ct $169, ¼-ct. $299, ½-ct. $799, 1-ct. $2499 Marquise ¼-ct. $399, ½-ct. $899, 1-ct. $2999	Diamond Pendant in 14-Kt. Gold NOW 1/10-ct $89, 1/7-ct. $159, ¼-ct. $249, 1/3-ct. $399 Earrings 1/10-ct.tw $79, 1/7-ct.tw $119, 1/4-ct.tw $189, 1/3-ct.tw $279, 1/2-ct.tw $549	½-ct. Cocktail Ring $439	½-ct. Cluster Ring $169	Onyx and Diamonds NOW $169	Diamond For Him NOW $249	3-Diamond Nugget Ring NOW $99.95
¼-ct. Diamond Heart Pendant NOW $119	Diamond Panda-Bear Ring	Onyx and Diamond NOW $99.95	Blue Topaz and Diamond NOW $89	Amethyst with Diamonds NOW $199			Opal and Diamond NOW $59	Diamond Signet Ring NOW $79	Pearl and Diamond NOW $119.95	Amethyst and Diamond NOW $59	Blue Topaz NOW $179

We have the best prices on quality jewelry in Mississippi, period!

All major credit cards accepted. Revolving charges - Layaway.